

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 27 are now pending in the application. Based on the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that he withdraw them.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-7, and 9 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,900 to Notani in view of APA (Admitted Prior Art). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites “a first computer based service tool”, “a second computer based service tool” and “a computer based workbench . . . wherein the first computer based service tool has access to service information on the second computer based service tool through the work bench”. The Examiner states that a first computer based service tool is the same as a first engine 110, and references Col. 7, line 40 – 67 of Notani for support. Notani states “Fig. 4 is a block diagram of the visual information broker (VIE) operating as a middle tier to various engines and other data sources according to the present invention.” [Col. 7, line 40 – 43]. However, neither this passage, or Notani in general teach or suggest that the engines referred to in the passage are service tools. Therefore, two key elements of the present invention are missing from the cited reference, and therefore, Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Notani.

The Examiner admits that Notani does not teach “a computer based workbench . . . wherein the first computer based service tool has access to service information on the second computer based service tool through the work bench”. Therefore, clearly a third element of the present invention is missing from Notani. The Examiner suggest that the “Background Art” section of the present application teaches a computer based workbench as recited in Claim 1. The section “Background Art” of the present application merely points out the problem with existing systems. Notani does not teach or suggest having multiple service tools accessing service information on other service tools using application proxies. Notani

-9-

does not teach or suggest using the system disclosed in Notani for "performing service operations on a machine", as stated in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 and the associated dependent claims 2 – 8 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 3 recites that "the machine [of claim 1] is a mobile work machine". The Examiner states that the "Background Art" section of the present invention teaches a notebook computer. The section "Background Art" discloses, in effect, that computer software tools (such as a notebook computer) are used in performing service type operations for certain types of machines. [Present Application, Page 1, Line 16 – 25]. In effect, the Examiner seems to be stating that the "Background Art" section teaches using two service tools and a computer workbench to perform service operations on a laptop computer. However, this interpretation is not accurate. Again, the section "Background Art" merely discloses, in effect, that computer software tools (such as a notebook computer) are used in performing service operations. Claim 3, in conjunction with Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Natori and the "Background Art" section of the present application. Therefore, Claim 3 is further believed to be allowable.

Claim 9 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as set forth above relative to Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 9 and the associated dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

Claim 2, 10 – 27 have been rejected under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,900 to Notani in view of APA (Admitted Prior Art) and further in view of Bullen et al (US Patent 6,033,226). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 recites "wherein the first computer based service tool provides diagnostic services for the machine". Bullen discloses that a user can select from various Functional Modules to access diagnostics on the tooling operation. However, accessing diagnostic information is different than providing diagnostic services for the machine (e.g., performing diagnostic routines that determine the status of the machine or a portion thereof). Therefore, Claim 2 is not taught or suggested by the cited passages.

Claim 10 is believed allowable in light of Claim 9 being allowable.

Claim 11 recites "a computer based diagnostic advisor" and a "computer based service information system", wherein the "diagnostic advisor has access to service information in the service information system, through the computer based workbench". Again, the cited passage from Bullen, only discloses that a user could access diagnostics on tooling, not the invention recited in Claim 11. Therefore, Claim 11 and the associated dependent claims (15 – 16) are not taught or suggested.

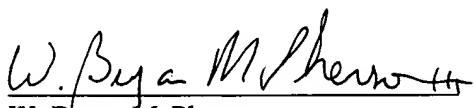
Claim 16, 24, and the associated dependent claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above related to Claim 1.

Claim 26 and 27 are believed to be allowable in light of the remarks relative to Claim 11.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that they withdraw them. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if they believe that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,


W. Bryan McPherson
Registration No. 41,988
Caterpillar Inc.

Telephone: (309) 675-4015
Facsimile: (309) 675-1236